

unpatentable over Kara1 in view of Brasington et al. and in view Stephens and US Patent No. 5,812,991 (Kara4).

The Examiner in the last rejection rejected claims 52 and 53 over Kara1 in view of Brasington et al. and further in view in the article from Stephens and US Patent No. 5,978,772 to Mold for the reasons set forth on page 16.

Applicants respectfully submits that the present invention as set forth by independent claims 1, 32, 42, 49, 50, 52, 54, 55, are patentably distinct over the cited art. In particular, these independent claims are directed to a system, method and computer software product for ordering custom official postal stamps. In this regard, the postal stamp of the present invention is to be distinguished from the metering postage provided by the Kara reference. In particular, the postal stamp according to the present invention is directed to a small piece of paper that is sold by a government for affixing to an article to be mailed. See Webster's II definition of stamp (Exhibit A attached). As applicants have previously noted, in Kara1 and Kara2, these references are directed to metered postage as opposed to official postal stamps that incorporate personal images. Kara1 teaches away from the use of stamps. See abstract of Kara1, column 1, line 30-36 and column 2, lines 12-30, as it discusses many of the disadvantages of providing an official postal stamps. This is in complete contrast to the present invention which is directed to official postal stamps. The same issues arise with Kara2, see the abstract in column 1, lines 50-65. Therefore, it would not be obvious to provide the postal stamp to which applicants' invention is directed.

Furthermore, the present invention can be distinguished from the Kara references in that the present invention includes a central authorizing computer system for communicating with at least one remote ordering system over a communication network. The central authorizing computer system having a computer program for forwarding information to at least one remote ordering system. The Kara1 reference does not teach or suggest the remote ordering of postal stamps as taught and claimed by applicants. Neither does Kara2 or Kara4. In these patents, additional postage amount is supplied to the postage metering system. There is no ordering of stamps remotely as taught and claimed by applicants. As can be seen by from the abstract, the Kara2 and Kara4 references are directed to a system method for printing a postage metered stamp. This is

opposed to a normal paper stamp to which the present invention is directed. Further, the present invention is directed to providing actual images as part of the official postage as opposed to simply providing images associated with the metered stamp as illustrated in Karas' 2 and 4.

The present invention allows customizing of an official postal stamp by a user from a remote ordering system wherein the user provides an image for incorporation as a part of the official postal stamp. Here again, the prior art Kara references fail to teach incorporation of a user provided image into the official postage stamp.

The Brasington et al. reference discloses a vending machine for printing postage stamps. This is not directed to a system whereby authorizing computer systems can communicate over a communication network with at least one remote ordering system. Further, since this reference is directed to selling stamps, there would be no motivation or suggestion of combining this with the Kara references as the Kara references are directed to metered stamps and not the use of stamps. There would be no motivation or suggestion of combining one reference with the other as suggested by the Examiner.


With respect to the Stephens' article, this is directed to a situation where personalized stamps may be purchased. However, there is no teaching or suggestion of the remote ordering system to which the present invention is directed or the providing of a central authorizing computer system for communicating with at least one ordering system as taught and claimed by applicants. What is disclosed in the Stephens' article was people walking up to a camera station, capturing their images for production on stamps right there. There is no teaching or suggestion of providing a system for ordering over a communication network as taught and claimed by applicants. As can be seen from the article itself, a humorous notation was made in the instruction that were handed to each potential stamp subject after advising them that they took no responsibility for any personal presentation. Thus, it is clear that this ordering of personal stamps was not done over a communication network, nor is there any teaching or suggestion that one could. Here again, there is no motivation or suggestion of combining these with the references. In particular, there would be no reason to combine this with Kara as Kara is directed to metered postage as

opposed to official postal stamps. Further, there would be no suggestion of combining this with the Brasington et al., as the Brasington et al. reference is directed to a vending machine and even if it were combined with Brasington et al., there is no teaching or suggestion of providing the ordering over a communication network as taught and claimed by applicants.

The present invention allows the ease and convenience of ordering personal postage stamps over a communication network. The present invention also provides means assuring that appropriate stamps are provided by authorizing a central authorizing computer system through which the stamps are ordered. If anything, the prior art references teach away from the combining of the references as each of them is directed totally apart and distinct type of feature. As previously noted, the Kara references are directed to metered postage as opposed to stamps of the present invention. The Kara references were designed to overcome the disadvantages of providing postal stamps to which the present invention is directed. The present invention allows the providing of images or the customizing of images by a user over a remote system which is not taught or suggested by the prior art.

In summary, applicants respectfully submits that the application in present form is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Exhibit A

# Webster's II

*New College Dictionary*



Houghton Mifflin Company

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# We New Dic

## The We

*Webster's II New*  
up-to-date. It  
changing fields  
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### Special Features

*Webster's II New*  
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**Abbreviations**  
commonly used

**Foreign Words**  
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learning.

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**Style Guide**—  
punctuation ru  
marks and form

**Clear, Accurat**  
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and an *architra*

## The We

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saucrat and authoritarian application of Marxism to the leadership of the *ist* n. — *Stal* 'lin-ize v

axis of a herbaceous plant. A plant part such as a stipe or elongated support. *stipe* n. — *stalk* 'y adj. *stalks*. [ME *stalken* < OE *stalk* with a stiff, haughty, or menacing. 3. To track game. 4. (a region) in pursuit

a. A horse trained to combat of a horse, used for one's true purpose: occur. al the candidacy of another

1. 1. A compartment for a stall compartment. 3. a. An arch pew. 4. Chiefly Brit. A ra. 5. A parking space for a oe. 7. A sudden loss in the interruption of airflow caused by an aircraft or airfoil. — *v* edge (an animal) in a stall fattening. 3. To check the e) accidentally to stop run-stall. — *vi*. 1. To live or be or snow. 3. To come to a mechanical failure. — *Used* result of a loss in forward

ermanic orig.) A stratagem stalled, stall-ing, stalls 1 or ruse : DELAY. — *vi*. To

ed-ing, -feeds. To lodge one of fattening. OFr. *estalon*, of Germanic

of stalworth < OE *stal* strength : ROBUST. 2. Resolutely and morally strong zation or cause. — *stall* '.

sta-mi-na (stá'mo-ná) n. the pollen-producing repro- ducer of a filament and an anther. adj. *stamen* < *stamine* > men, thread.) The strength, vigor, or hardship : ENDUR-

of STAMEN. relating to a stamen. adj. Bot. 1. Having a sta-

also *stam-i-no-di-um* also *no-di-a* (nó'di-á) ) Bot. A sterile, function-

1. [STAMIN- + Gk. *stamēn*, a stamen. *stamen* < ME *stamin* < *stamen*, thread.] 1. Obs. A the red color of stamens. *stamens*. [ME *stamen* any pauses or syllabic re- pay with a stammer. — *n* it. — *stam-mer* e r a

stamps. [ME *stampen*.] 2. To bring the foot down ition by or as if by thrust- form or cut out by appli- or impress with a mark. ermanently. 7. To affix a real <stamped them in- ward. 2. To walk with iping. 2. a. An implement something to which it is ned. 3. A mark, design, or approval, or completion.

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a. A small piece of paper that is sold by a government for affixing to an article to be mailed : POSTAGE STAMP. b. A similar piece of paper issued for a specific purpose <trading stamps>. 5. An identifying or characterizing mark or impression. 6. Characteristic nature or quality. *stampede* (stám-ped') n. [Sp. *estampida*, uproar < Prov. < *estampar* to stamp, of Germanic orig.] 1. A sudden headlong rush of startled animals. 2. A sudden headlong rush of a crowd of people. 3. A precipitous mass movement. — *v*. -ped-ed, -ped-ing, -pedes. — *vt*. 1. To cause (animals) to move in a headlong rush. 2. To cause (a group of people) to act on a single, common impulse. — *vi*. 1. To move in a headlong rush. 2. To act on a single, common impulse. — *stamp* 'er n.

stamping ground n. 1. One's customary environment. 2. A favorite gathering place.

stamp mill n. 1. A machine that crushes ore. 2. A building in which ore is crushed.

stance (stáns) n. [OFr. *estance*, position < Ital. *stanza* < VLat. \**stanc-* < Lat. *stare*, to stand.] 1. a. The attitude or position of a standing person or animal. b. The position assumed by an athlete directly preparatory to action. 2. An emotional or intellectual position.

stanch (stónch, stánsch) vt. stanch-ed, stanch-ing, stanch-es also stanch-ed, stanch-ing, stanch-es. [ME *stanchen* < OFr. *estanchier* < VLat. \**stancicare* < Lat. *stans*, part. of *stare*, to stand.] 1. To stop or check the flow of. 2. To check the flow of blood from (a wound). 3. To stop or prevent the progress of. — *stanch* 'er n.

stanch (stónch, stánsch) adj. var. of STANCH.

stanchion (stán'chón, -shón) n. [ME *stanchon* < OFr. *estanchon* < *estance*, prop. — see STANCE.] 1. An upright pole, post, or support. 2. One of the vertical posts used to secure cattle in a stall. — *vt*. -chion-ed, -chion-ing, -chions. 1. To equip with stanchions. 2. To confine (cattle) in stanchions.

stand (stánd) v. stood (stóod), stand-ing, stands. [ME *standen* < OE *standan*.] — *vi*. 1. a. To take or maintain an upright position on the feet. b. To be placed in or maintain an erect position. c. To grow in a vertical direction. 2. To assume a standing position in a manner specified <stand straight>. 3. To point or range in hunting. 4. To be equal to a specified height when erect <stands five feet tall>. 5. To remain valid, intact, or unchanged <The rule still stands on the books>. 6. To have a specified position, expectation, or opportunity <stand to gain>. 7. To be situated or placed. 8. To be in a specified class or degree : RANK <stood second in the class>. 9. To remain in a stationary position. 10. a. To remain without movement, flow, or disturbance. b. To stagnate. 11. To take up or keep to an attitude, conviction, or course <stand fast>. 12. Chiefly Brit. To be a candidate for public office. 13. To take or hold a particular course or direction on the water <a ship standing to windward>. — *vt*. 1. To cause to stand : water upright. 2. To encounter : meet <stand battle>. 3. a. To resist : withstand. b. To tolerate : endure <can't stand the tension>. 4. To be subjected to : UNDERGO <stand trial>. 5. Informal. To pick up the check for : TREAT <stand a friend to a drink>. — *stand* for. To represent : symbolize. — *stand in*. To act as a stand-in. — *stand off*. 1. To maintain a distance from. 2. To fail in or deny compliance or agreement. 3. To put off : evade. 4. To take or maintain a course away from shore. — *stand out*. To refuse compliance. — *stand up*. 1. To assume a standing position : RISE. 2. To prove valid, satisfactory, or durable. 3. Informal. To fail to keep an appointment with someone <My date stood me up>. — *n*. 1. The act of standing. 2. A halt. 3. Cessation of work or activity : STANDSTILL. 4. A stop on a performance <was booked for a series of one-night stands>. 5. The place where one stands. 6. A small booth or stall for goods for sale. 7. A space reserved for taxis. 8. A desperate or decisive halt for defense or resistance. 9. A position one is prepared to defend <take a stand>. 10. stands. The bleachers at a playing field or stadium. 11. A witness stand. 12. A rack or framework for holding various articles <a music stand>. 13. A growth of plants or trees <a stand of maples>. — *stand a chance*. To have a chance of gaining or accomplishing. — *stand (one's) ground*. To hold one's position. — *stand to reason*. To be consistent with reason. — *stand'er* n.

stand-a-lone (stánd'á-lón') adj. Of, relating to, or being a device that can function independently <a stand-alone computer>

stand-ard (stánd'árd) n. [ME < OFr. *estandard*, rallying place, of Germanic orig.] 1. A flag, banner, or ensign, specif.: a. The ensign of a chief of state, nation, or city. b. A long tapering flag bearing the distinctive device of a person or corporation. c. The colors of a mounted or motorized military unit. 2. a. An accepted measure of comparison for quantitative or qualitative value : CRITERION. b. An object that under specified conditions defines, represents, or records the magnitude of a unit. 3. The proportion by weight of gold or silver to alloy metal that has been set for use in coinage. 4. The commodity used as the basis for a monetary system. 5. A pedestal, stand, or base. 6. Bot. a. The large upper petal of the flower of a pea or related plant. b. One of the narrow upright petals of an iris. 7. A shrub or plant trained to grow with a single stem of limited height. — *adj*. 1. a. Serving as a standard

of measurement or value. b. Commonly used and accepted as an authority <a standard text in the field of economics>. c. Of average but acceptable quality. d. Of normal or prescribed size or quantity. 2. Conforming to an established norm of educated usage in language.

stand-ard-bear-er (stán'dárd-bár'ér) n. 1. One that bears the colors of a military unit. 2. One in the forefront of a movement.

stand-ard-bred (stán'dárd-bréd') n. One of an American breed of horses developed for harness racing.

standard candle n. A candela.

standard deviation n. Statistics. 1. The square root of the variance. 2. A statistic used as a measure of dispersion in a distribution, the square root of the arithmetic average of the squares of the deviations from the mean.

Stan-dard English (stán'dárd) n. The variety of English that is most widely accepted as the spoken and written language of educated speakers in formal and informal contexts and is characterized by generally accepted conventions of spelling, grammar, and vocabulary while admitting some regional differences, esp. in pronunciation and vocabulary.

standard gauge n. 1. A railroad track that is 56½ inches wide. 2. A railroad or railroad car that meets standard gauge specification.

stand-ard-ize (stán'dárd-íz') vt. -ized, -iz-ing, -iz-es. To cause to be in agreement with a standard. — *stan'dárd-i-za'tion* n.

standard of living n. A measure of the goods and services affordable by and available to a person or a country.

standard operating procedure n. An established procedure to be followed in a given situation.

standard time n. The time in any of 24 time zones, usu. the mean solar time at the central meridian of each zone.

stand-by (stánd'bi') n., pl. -bys. 1. One that can always be depended on. 2. A favorite or frequent choice. 3. a. One kept in readiness to serve as a substitute. b. Readiness to serve as a substitute <was on standby for a flight to London>

stand-ee (stánd-é') n. An occupant of standing room.

stand-in (stánd'in') n. 1. One who substitutes for an actor during lights and camera adjustments. 2. A substitute.

stand-ing (stánd'ing) n. 1. The act or position of one that stands. 2. Standing room. 3. a. Status with respect to achievement or reputation. b. High reputation : ESTEEM <a person of standing in the community>. 4. Length of time : DURATION. — *adj*. 1. Remaining upright : ERECT. 2. Made or performed from an upright position <standing jumps>. 3. Permanent and unchanging <a standing order>. 4. Not movable : STATIONARY. 5. Not flowing or circulating : STAGNANT.

standing army n. A permanent army of paid soldiers.

standing crop n. The total amount of living organisms in a specific area at a given time.

standing room n. Space in which to stand, as at a performance for which all seats are filled.

standing wave n. A wave in which the amplitude of the resultant of a transmitted and a reflected wave is stationary in time and in which some of the energy of the transmitted wave is absorbed by the reflecting boundary.

stand-off (stánd'ól', -ól') n. A standoff insulator.

stand-off (stánd'ól', -ól') n. 1. A tie in a race or contest : DRAW. 2. A neutralizing or counterbalancing effect.

standoff insulator n. An insulator used to support a conductor at a specified distance from a surface.

stand-off-ish (stánd'ól'f ish, -ól'f ish) adj. Unsociable : aloof.

stand oil n. A drying oil, as linseed, tung, or soya, heated until thickened and used in oil enamel paints.

stand-out (stánd'out') n. One that is outstanding.

stand-pipe (stánd'pip') n. A large vertical pipe into which water is pumped in order to produce a desired pressure.

stand-point (stánd'point') n. [Transl. of G. *Standpunkt*.] A position from which things are considered or judged : POINT OF VIEW.

St. An-drew's cross (sánt'án'drōz) n. [After the apostle St. Andrew (d. ca. A.D. 60).] 1. A cross shaped like the letter X. 2. A shrubby New World plant, *Ascyrum hypericoides*, with four-petaled yellow flowers.

stand-still (stánd'stíl') n. A halt <The work on the project came to a standstill>.

stand-up or stand-up (stánd'úp') adj. 1. Erect : upright. 2. Taken standing <a standup supper>. 3. Of or designating a performance staged without costume, props, or assisting persons <a standup comedian>.

Stan-ford-Bi-net scale (stán'fórd-bí-ná') n. [After Stanford University, California.] A revision of the Binet-Simon scale used in one form or another since 1916.

stang (stáng) v. Obs. var. p.t. of STING.

stan-hope (stán'hóp', stán'áp) n. [After the Rev. Fitzroy Stanhope (1787-1864).] A light carriage having one seat and two or four wheels.

stank (stángk) v. var. p.t. of STINK.

stan-nic (stán'ík) adj. [Prob. < Fr. *stannique* < LLat. *stannum*, tin < Lat., an alloy of silver and lead.] Of, relating to, or containing tin, esp. with valence 4.

stannic chloride n. A colorless caustic liquid,  $\text{Na}_2\text{SnCl}_6 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ , made from tin treated with chlorine and used in making textiles, sensitized papers, and perfumes.

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ō abuse zh vision ā about, item, edible, gallop, circus



# Picture Postage Stamp System

**Kodak**

Welcome to  
Kodak Picture  
Postage.

Now you can turn your favorite pictures into postage stamps. They work just like the stamps you've always used to mail letters, postcards and packages, but now you get to choose what picture is on the stamp.

Create stamps for special occasions like weddings, or birth announcements or make your own special holiday stamps.

Create your own stamps and collect picture postage stamps made by friends and family. It's easy to do. Just select the right arrow button below to begin.

**Picture The Excitement**

?

51

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48

©

FIG. 4



# Picture Postage Stamp System

**Kodak**

Easy To Do!  
Here's How It  
Works.

**Now you can make picture postage using your own pictures or pictures from our collection of beautiful images.**

In just a few minutes you can design your own picture postage stamps. Just follow these 3 easy steps:

1) Select the type of stamps you want to make:

- "My Own Stamps" - postage stamps made from your own personal pictures that you upload to this site.
  - "My Favorite Stamps" - postage stamps made from pictures from our extensive collection of pre-approved images created by Kodak and your postal service.
  - "My Caring Stamps" - postage stamps sponsored by charitable organizations. A portion of the revenues from the sale of these stamps help support that organization.
- 2) Choose a picture you want and adjust it as you wish: crop, add pre-approved text, choose vertical or horizontal format.

3) Tell us your address and payment information and then submit your order.

Note: If you've chosen pictures from our collection of "My Favorite Stamps," your order will automatically be approved. If you've chosen a personal picture for "My Own Stamps," that picture will need to meet certain guidelines before we can make it into a stamp. We will notify you by e-mail of the status of your order.



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**FIG. 5**